

BUILDING URBAN ECONOMIC RESILIENCE DURING AND AFTER COVID-19

Session for participants from Asia Pacific and Europe regions

Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 **Time:** 08:00-11:00 CET
Venue: Online (via Zoom platform)

Session for participants from Latin America, Africa and Arab regions

Date: Monday, 17 August 2020 **Time:** 15:00-18:00 CET
Venue: Online (via Zoom platform)

Organizers: This Global Virtual Workshop is organized by the UN-Habitat City Resilience Global Programme (CRGP) in partnership with United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and UN Regional Commissions for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), Africa (UNECA), Latin America (UN ECLAC), Asia Pacific (UN ESCAP) and Europe (UNECE).

Target Audience: The Global Virtual Workshop is open for participation to the 15 project cities appointed by the UN Regional Commissions, respondents of the Global Compendium of Practices, and representatives of local governments and other institutions involved in local-level economic recovery and resilience building.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic is far more than a health crisis; it is affecting societies and economies at their core. While the impact of the pandemic varies from country to country, it has increased poverty and inequalities at a global scale, and made achievement of SDGs and the 2030 Agenda even more urgent. To address the crisis, the United Nations developed a [UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19](#), which highlights the need to “empower local governments; scale community and city level resilience” as core components for recovery.

The UN Regional Commissions together with UNCDF and UN-Habitat are working on a joint project on Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19. This project draws from the UN framework and promotes the “recovering better” principle by including measures for planning and building resilient cities, advocating for an approach that is multi-hazard, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder, which supports decarbonization and circularity of the economy and focuses on overcoming inequalities and assisting the most vulnerable groups.

The project aims to develop a better understanding of the key factors and drivers of urban resilience as well as solutions that work and contribute to a practical framework for creating more resilient cities and local governments better able to withstand shocks such as COVID-19 and other broad-based socio-economic stresses likely to reoccur in a predominantly urban world. The project will focus on strengthening the capacities of local governments in 15 cities globally (3 each from Africa, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Arab regions) selected on a demand-driven approach to design, implement and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding plans.

The Global Virtual Workshop forms a crucial part of the project, informing a global compendium of practices and the development of a framework on urban economic resilience. In advance of the Workshop, a Questionnaire was distributed to cities in order to learn about their experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic response and recovery practices implemented to address its impacts. The conceptual framework behind this questionnaire and the initial findings on global practices will be introduced during the first part of the workshop, and inform the case studies and panel discussion in the succeeding parts.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Provide a global platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange on COVID-19 local economic and financial response and recovery measures
- Strengthen the local government capacities and build their resilience through access to information on good practices available worldwide and regionally
- Guide and inform cities towards the application of the UN's 'building back better' principle in their recovery strategies and ensure alignment with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Develop a better understanding of the key factors and drivers of urban economic and financial resilience as well as solutions that work
- Contribute to building a practical framework for creating more resilient cities and local governments better able to withstand shocks such as COVID-19
- Identify linkages with other dimensions of urban resilience of specific relevance to the different social, spatial and governance contexts of each region.

SESSION OVERVIEW

Both sessions of the Global Virtual Workshop is scheduled for a total duration of 3 hours and will consist of the following main blocks:

- Opening remarks
- Keynote speech
- Conceptual framework and urban economic resilience (15 min)
- Broad overview of global practices on local economic recovery and resilience (10 min)
- Regional case studies (30 min)
- Panel dialogue (50 min)
- Conclusions and closing remarks

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Register at <https://urbanresiliencehub.org/global-virtual-workshop/>

To participate in the project's Global Compendium of Practices, please visit:

<https://urbanresiliencehub.org/questionnaire-for-global-compendium-of-practices/>